

Green Action News

MOBILISING PEOPLE TO SAFEGUARD OUR ENVIRONMENT

ISSUE 12 • SPRING 2010

How we plan to secure a green and independent future.

PLUS

We win an 'Oscar of
Australian Science'





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One step closer to a greener future

> **Kelly O'Shanassy**, Chief Executive Officer

In a time of disappointment with the major political parties at the federal level, here in the state of Victoria, we're pretty excited. In fact, we've had so many wins this winter that I'm not quite sure where to start.

AS THE FEDS race to the bottom on climate change, we've had a breakthrough in Victoria. Premier Brumby finally launched Victoria's climate policy and it's not bad at all! (See our breakdown on page 3). We've been working on getting better outcomes for our climate for years so we're pretty pleased with the leadership the Premier has finally shown. (He even thanked us for our role in paving the way for his big legacy – now he just has to deliver). At the same time, we've also had a major win for our rivers campaign. For years governments have played politics with our water, taking way too much of it from our rivers. But now, we have an independent environmental water

holder to help safeguard environmental flows. It's a good outcome and one we've been campaigning towards for a long time. (You can read more about that and other BIG WINS on page 14) And in really big news - Environment Victoria has won the prestigious Eureka Award for the Advancement of Climate Change Knowledge. And we're proud! It's a real pat on the back for the team here at Environment Victoria and we hope it will inspire our funding partners to re-fund those sustainable living programs that are now coming to an end. (Read more about the Eureka Prize on page 11). None of this would be possible though without the support of people like you. We rely on the support of our generous

donors to keep running our campaigns and programs. And it's important for the security of not only our organisation, but also our environment, that we build a diversified and strong funding base. That's why we're launching our Green Future Fund to secure a green and independent future. It's one of the biggest actions we've ever taken to plan for our future, and I really hope you'll be part of it! (Get all the details on page 7 and 8). All in all, it's safe to say that I may just be one of the proudest CEOs in the country right now and I do believe that Environment Victoria, with your help, is achieving incredible things. We're ready and eager for the State Election and we've set our sights rather high! So enjoy the Spring edition of Green Action News, and keep your eyes peeled to our website as we approach election day.

State government delivers strong climate package



> **Mark Wakeham**, Campaigns Director

On 26 July 2010, the Victorian Government announced the detail of their Climate Change White Paper. It was headlined by a commitment to cut Victoria's greenhouse pollution by 20 percent by 2020.

IT ALSO INCLUDES a commitment to replace one quarter of Hazelwood Power Station (or its equivalent coal-fired generation) by 2014. And it commits the government to improving the energy efficiency of existing homes across the state, by bringing them up from 2-stars to 5-stars. The latter in particular is a policy that could go a long way to meeting our campaign goal of retrofitting One Million Homes across Victoria.

The package formalises policies to attract large-scale solar power to Victoria through the introduction of a solar feed-in tariff. And it commits the government to doubling the state's energy efficiency target and extending that target to small business and industry. Elsewhere there are commitments to legislate against the

building of new conventional coal-fired power stations, and to allow the EPA to regulate carbon-dioxide as a pollutant. From our point of view, the package is a great start. The White Paper puts Victoria at the forefront of climate action in Australia. And while that's a very low benchmark, it's in stark contrast to the backward-looking policies of the federal Labor Party and Coalition. To date, the state Opposition has also been missing in action. The response of the Baillieu Opposition to the Paper and bill will be important. But so far, their only policy announcement on climate change has been to promise to make it harder to build wind farms in Victoria! With the generous support of members and donors, Environment Victoria has

TAKE ACTION

There are just over two and a half months to go to the state election, and things are really starting to heat up. (Pardon the pun). So we're going to be ramping things up to make sure all parties commit to replacing all of Hazelwood Power Station by 2012 and retrofitting one million low income homes. Check out our campaign updates on pages 4, 5 and 6 and get involved online at www.environmentvictoria.org.au.

spent much of the last 18 months campaigning for the state government to take action on climate change. We needed them to deliver a strong White Paper no matter what was taking place on the national stage. After a very weak Green Paper, our strong community campaigns and People's Action Plan have pushed them over the line. The challenge now will be to make sure they honour their commitments. So we'll be watching closely to make sure that they implement the policies and deliver the greatest possible environmental benefits.



Hazelwood: One quarter down. Three-quarters to go.

> Mark Wakeham, Campaigns Director & Victoria McKenzie-McHarg, Safe Climate Campaigner

The Brumby Government has made a promise on Hazelwood, but you'd be excused for wondering exactly what it means. While the White Paper may be soft on details, the Premier himself has been very clear.

THE GOVERNMENT'S CLIMATE

Change White Paper, released in July 2010, has committed the government to reducing emissions from Victorian power stations by four million tonnes by 2014. On this calculation, the total savings would be 28 million tonnes by 2020 – the equivalent to closing two units (or one quarter) of Hazelwood Power Station. The paper details the tender process for retiring coal-plants and highlights the need for federal government assistance with the costs. All of which leaves the door open for other coal-fired power stations to bid for funds to close instead of Hazelwood.

In media interviews however, the Premier has been very specific. During an interview in July, Premier Brumby said the state had an issue with coal. "We've got a particularly dirty power station, which is Hazelwood," Premier Brumby said in late July. "Had there been a carbon price, Hazelwood was slated to close in 2016... So the announcement today is about a staged closure of Hazelwood. Hazelwood has got 8 units.

We're announcing today that by 2014, we intend to achieve the closure of two of those units."

"If you're going to target the environment, if you're going to target climate change, if you're going to actually reduce emissions, you can't do it without focusing on Hazelwood."

That's a big change in the state government's position and it's great to hear Premier Brumby getting on the Hazelwood bandwagon. It's testament to the success and strength of our cut-through grassroots campaign.

We understand that running a tender process may minimise costs. And we

sympathise with the demand for federal government assistance with the costs. But from the beginning we've been very clear: one way or another, Hazelwood must be closed in full during the next term of government.

We're hoping the federal government comes to the party, but if it doesn't the state government needs to be prepared to replace all of Hazelwood to meet our new state targets for emissions reductions. That's essential to deliver the emissions cuts we need, save billions of litres of water for our rivers and remove the biggest source of dioxin pollution in the country.

TAKE ACTION

Thanks to all the generous support we've received so far, we've come a long way. Premier Brumby's commitment was a good start. But we're going to up-the-ante on this one until we get a commitment from both the Premier and Opposition to Replace ALL of Hazelwood with clean energy in the next term of government. Help us get the outcome Victoria deserves, by making a donation to our Replace Hazelwood campaign on page 15 of this newsletter.

ONE QUARTER DOWN... THANKS TO YOU!

Thanks to the support of hundreds of generous donors, supporters and volunteers, our Replace Hazelwood campaign has really taken off. Your support has helped us put some serious pressure on our politicians, leading to Premier Brumby's commitment to replace one quarter of Hazelwood. It's also helped us build awareness of the issue with thousands of Victorians. The issue's even gone federal! So from the bottom of our hearts – we'd like to say a huge thank you! We couldn't have come this far without you.

National Parks declared but red gums still dying of thirst

> **Amelia Young**, Healthy Rivers Campaigner



Wildlife like the Southern Bell Frog and Plumed Egret are in real danger until we convince the government to give water back to our River Red Gum forest wetlands.

TAKE ACTION

Join with us in the lead-up to the November state election and call on our state political leaders to return much-needed water to our River Red Gum Forest Wetlands. Sign our online petition at www.environmentvictoria.org.au/content/help-secure-environmental-water-our-river-red-gum-forest-wetlands.

Along its journey to the sea, the mighty Murray River and its tributaries flow through forests unlike any other on the planet – the magnificent River Red Gum forest wetlands.

THESE ICONIC FORESTS are the largest remaining Red Gum forest wetlands on Earth. So we were stoked when Premier Brumby turned them into national and regional parks in July 2010. It's an outcome environment groups fought long and hard for. The parks will be jointly managed with the Yorta Yorta Traditional Owners and will protect the Nyah Vinifera forest, parts of the Goulburn floodplains, and forest wetlands along the Ovens and Barmah Rivers.

All of which begs the question - why is our 'Kakadu of the South' being allowed to die of thirst?

In creating a "foodbowl for the nation", we've dramatically altered the way our rivers run. Too much water is flowing down rivers in the summer time, and often it is too cold. Too little water is being left over for the winter. In the words of Dr Paul Humphries, "our rivers – and the animals and plants that live in them – have been exposed to massive climate change for more than 100 years." Over 75 percent of these ancient Red Gum trees are already stressed, dead or dying. These precious forest wetlands haven't had a decent drink for over 13

years. Without the water so critical to their survival, the unique plants and wildlife that rely on the ecosystem flooding are under serious threat. So too are any economic opportunities the government hopes the parks will offer regional communities. If not watered soon, the health of the new national parks will continue to decline.

The effect would be catastrophic. The floodplains are a living classroom of indigenous culture and wetland ecology. They're amongst the most productive and biologically diverse ecosystems in the Murray-Darling Basin. And they provide essential breeding and feeding habitats for many species of waterbirds, fish, invertebrates and plants. Species like the beautiful Plumed Egret, the Southern Bell Frog, Slender Darling Pea, and indigenous totem the Long-necked Turtle, are all at risk.

There are no two ways about it: our new River Red Gum National Parks need their fair share of water returned and they need it now.

Which is why we're keeping up the pressure on our political leaders to deliver water to our new parks by 2012.



Big opportunity opens up for one million homes



> **Josie Lee**, Safe Climate Campaigner

The long-awaited Victorian Climate Change White Paper has opened the door to a big opportunity for our One Million Homes campaign.

THE PAPER, RELEASED in July, included a substantial commitment to improve the star rating of existing Victorian homes from 1-2 stars to an average of 5 stars by 2020. (See our article on page 3). It also committed the state government to a comprehensive retrofit program that includes support for low income households and public housing tenants. Both Environment Victoria and our friends in the One Million Home Alliance welcomed this step up for household energy efficiency.

What it failed to do, though, was provide any details about how this would be achieved. That's where we come in. The announcement has opened up a big opportunity for the government to adopt our One Million Homes program. And we believe that's what it will take to start us down the path to improving the energy rating of two million existing homes in Victoria over 10 years. Our program aims to provide energy and water retrofits to one million low-income households over five years.

That's why, over the remaining months up to the election, we'll be working hard alongside our Alliance partners to persuade our political leaders to take up our One Million Homes program. It'll require a big effort on the government's part, so we'll also be working to push them to commit to getting started on this work in the next term of government.

Meantime, the campaign is gaining steam and our support base is now big enough to really get the government's attention. The Alliance includes 20 high profile organisations from across the social spectrum - from social groups and environment groups, to local government and businesses. All of us have joined together to call for the retrofit of One Millions Homes.

Many more voices are joining the call. You can be one of them by getting online and signing our letter to our leaders. Call on them to retrofit One Million Homes here:
<http://www.environmentvictoria.org.au/content/one-million-homes-sign-letter>

Reading the federal election tea-leaves

> **Mark Wakeham**, Campaigns Director

Trying to review the outcome of this history-making federal election is a little like reading tea leaves. Here are the ins and outs though of what it may mean for the environment and the upcoming state election in Victoria.

IT'S SAFE TO say that this was a completely uninspiring election campaign. The major parties ran a mile from any environment issues, turning it into the brownest election campaign in decades. Maybe that's why neither of them was able to form government in their own right? Either way, Australians knew better. Despite both campaigns moving backwards on the environment, we could have one of the most progressive Parliaments ever, with the Greens holding the balance of power.

The result in Victoria particularly is a good sign for the environment in the lead-up to the state election. The Greens vote was very high in this state – particularly in inner city areas where the Greens will be looking to win seats at the state election. Even if the state Coalition maintain their absence of leadership on environmental issues, there will still be plenty of policy competition on the environment. The focus will be on issues like replacing Hazelwood and getting water back to our River Red Gum Forest Wetlands.

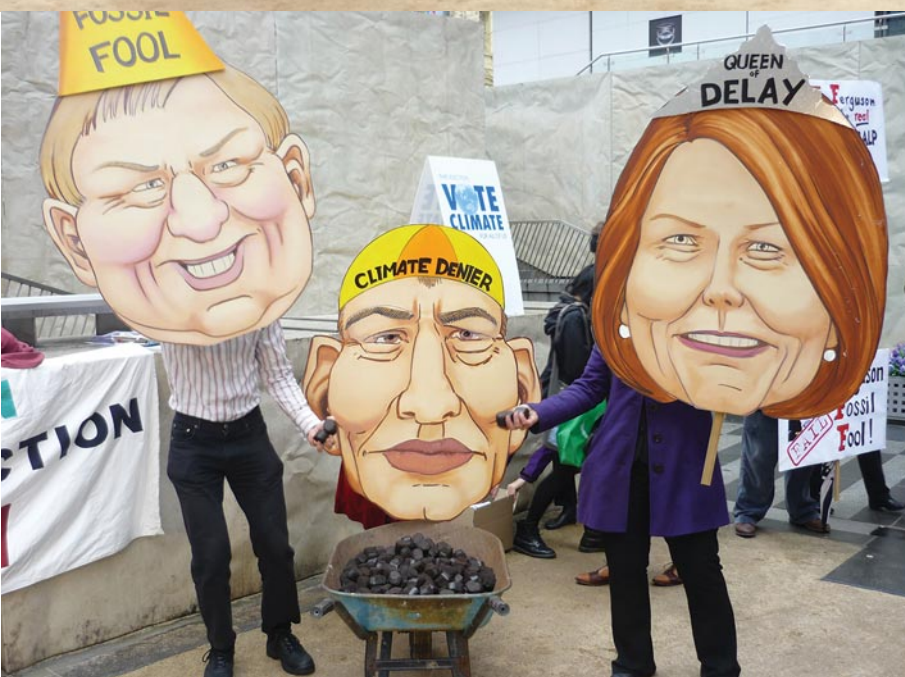
And whatever happens federally, national environment and climate policy is about to get very interesting. We'll see debate and negotiation in the House of Representatives unlike any we've ever seen before. My hopeful prediction is that the independent MPs will be champions for action on issues like climate change and water for rivers. But only time will tell.

TAKE ACTION

Meanwhile, we're still over two and a half months from the state election and there's loads to do. Get involved in our 2010 election campaigns online at www.environmentvictoria.org.au/2010election. For more information, contact Mark Wakeham on (03) 9341 8127 or via email at mark.wakeham@environmentvictoria.org.au



Great suburban walk reaches 250,000 voters



> Vicki Kyriakakis, Communications Manager
The Federal Election was always going to be a doozy, and we wanted to make sure that the Safe Climate message didn't get lost amongst all the noise. So this year, we mobilised close to 1000 volunteers to take part in our Great Suburban Walk in the key areas of Melbourne, Deakin and Latrobe. While the weather turned out a typical wintry Melbourne day, it didn't stop our dedicated volunteers from taking the Safe Climate message direct to the doors of 250,000 of Victoria's most crucial voters. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who helped us make the walk a great success.

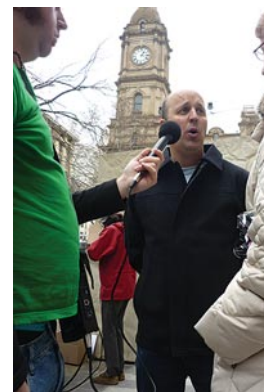
MAIN Photo: Over 500 people gathered in drizzly Melbourne weather to tell Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott to stop walking backwards on climate change. Left: Gillard, Queen of Delay; Abbott, Climate Denier; and Fergusson, Fossil Fool made an appearance.



Environment Victoria's Safe Climate campaigner, Victoria McKenzie-McHarg, talks up a climate storm outside MP, Mike Symons office in Deakin.



Walkers in Deakin gather to collect their leaflets and maps for letterboxing.



Environment Victoria Campaigns Director, Mark Wakeham, talks to media about the Walk Against Warming.

Securing a green and

> Kelly O'Shanassy, Chief Executive Officer

For 40 years, Environment Victoria has mobilised people to safeguard our environment. We've taken on the big issues, and we've gotten the results. The fact is though, we're facing an environmental emergency. So we need urgent and sustained funds to support Green Action now and long into the future. Enter our brand new Green Future Fund.



TWO YEARS AGO we set an audacious goal – mobilise 5 million people, that's every Victorian, to take action for our environment. It's what we think it'll take to secure a green future for our state. But to achieve it, we need to secure sustained and independent funding for Environment Victoria. Our environmental challenges won't be solved overnight. (Nor will reaching our big hairy goal). So we need to make sure we're here for many years to come. Our Green Future Fund accepts tax-deductible donations and bequests and invests them for the future. The fund will then be used over a twenty year period to provide planned income to Environment Victoria. It's a plan we know will help us create a greener future and secure our independence. Our goal is to raise \$6.5 million by 2015, and grow this to \$10 million by 2020. (Hey, no-one can accuse us of not

looking at the bigger picture!). Each year, the fund will generate \$500,000 in income to support our critical work. Think of it as a type of hedge fund. By contributing now, you'll ensure we've got the resources to keep up our critical work – both today and into the next two decades. Planning ahead will give us the best chance of securing the future we all want. A future where clean energy is the only form of energy. Where we can hear frogs croaking in our local creek. And where every Victorian is living sustainably. Our successes over the past 40 years have brought us to an amazing place. Right now, our impact is big. We're on the verge of getting Hazelwood Power Station replaced with clean energy. We've convinced the government to double its energy efficiency target. They've even tripled the landfill levy, boosting recycling. We won an 'Oscar of Australian

Science' for helping the most disadvantaged communities understand climate change. And we've just won a long battle for an independent water holder — taking the politics out of water. We're one of the most influential environment groups in Australia today and we're hungry for more. But we need secure funds to survive. The fantastic news is that we've already secured a founding gift to the Green Future Fund of \$2 million from the Dara Foundation. (We'll be launching the Fund at our AGM on 29 September 2010, but we couldn't wait to share the incredible news). So we're part of the way there already! All of us here at Environment Victoria would like to say a huge thanks to the Dara Foundation for their incredibly generous gift. With their support, we're on our way to securing a green and independent future. The destiny of our planet will be shaped

independent future

Our Green Future Fund will help us make sure that Victoria's environment has a voice now and into our children's future.



over the next 20 years. And we want to be here to help shape it. There's no doubt we face enormous challenges. But together we can meet them and win. Now is the time to plan ahead and face those challenges head on. We're ready. And we're building the secure funds we need to get the job done.

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY? ARE YOU IN?

Make a donation or bequest to our Green Future Fund and help us secure a greener future for our state, and independence for Environment Victoria. To find out more, contact Kelly O'Shanassy on (03) 9341 8119 or via email at kelly.oshanassy@environmentvictoria.org.au. And we'd love to see you at the official launch of the Green Future Fund after our AGM on 29 September 2010, from 6.30pm at 60 Leicester Street, Carlton.

HOW THE GREEN FUTURE FUND WORKS

Our Green Future Fund accepts donations of \$15,000 or more and bequests. We'll then ethically invest each donation we receive and use it over a period of 20 years. Each year, we'll use five percent of the donation capital (and all associated earnings) to support our campaigns and award-winning programs.

Because we face an environmental emergency, we've taken a different approach from traditional 'endowment funds'. (Where the capital is retained and only earnings are spent). That's because we need urgent but sustained funds to support Green Action now and into the coming decades. But, if you prefer, you can ask us to keep your donation capital and only use the earnings from it.

What's more, we've put strong governance arrangements into place. And our Board has appointed the Environment Victoria Trustees to oversee the funds. So you can be sure that your donation is in safe and ethical hands.

WHY THE GREEN FUTURE FUND?

We need urgent but lasting action for our environment. Because let's face it, we can't solve our problems overnight. So we're in this for the long-haul. We need solutions that will transform our economy and society, and restore our environment. It's a level of complexity that requires reliable funding, so that we can plan ahead and overcome the enormous challenges we face.

And we can't secure the environment's future, without securing our own. Environment Victoria is a lean organisation. (We run on the smell of an oily rag!) And we're proud of the amazing results we've managed to achieve on so few resources. For years, however, we've been operating from year to year, with limited reserves to get us through the tough times. We're still too reliant on government income, undermining our independence. Our Green Future Fund will help us diversify our income sources and provide us with the flexibility we need to spend our precious resources on what matters most.

THREE GOOD REASONS TO INVEST IN OUR GREEN FUTURE FUND:

1. We're Victorian.

Well it goes without saying. But you may not know that we're the only environment group that focuses on mobilising Victorians to green up their lives, rescue our rivers and safeguard our climate. We're experts on Victoria's environment. And Victoria's decision-makers respect us. Our connections with our local communities run deep. And barely a day goes by when we're not influencing the media, convincing a politician to make change, or shaping the opinions of Victorians.

2. We've been very successful. But we can and must do more.

From our first victory in 1969, to the successes of the past three months, we've made a real and lasting difference. We won

the first legislated environmental flows for rivers anywhere in the world. We secured new National Parks and recycling facilities. We won new renewable energy laws and billions of dollars of investment in our environment. And we're hungry for more. We need to redouble our efforts to get more and bigger wins for our environment.

3. We spend your money on what counts.

We work really hard to make wise choices about how we allocate the money and resources you donate to us. We believe in spending your money on what counts – saving our rivers, dealing with climate change, reducing waste and helping people green up their lives. In fact, people often tell us they can't believe how much we do on so few resources.

Having a baby doesn't have to cost you the Earth

> **Domenica Settle**, Project Officer, Sustainable Living Program

The pitter patter of little feet can lead you to supersize your ecological footprint, so Environment Victoria has put together information to make the transition to parenthood a greener one.

Green babies are happier babies, as our Sustainable Living Project Manager, Michele Burton and her baby boy can attest.



WE'VE GOT TIPS from experienced parents on what you really need to buy, and ideas for making renovations safer and greener. There's information on getting around with a baby and without the car, and gadgets and habits that will save water, energy and money. Babies and pregnant women are more sensitive to toxins, so we've included information on how to put your home on a detox diet. And with new parents spending more time at home, we've also got tips on keeping the summer heat and winter cold out, plus the lowdown on reusable nappies – you could save \$2,500 and 700kg of waste from landfill!

Over the next few months we'll be getting this information out to thousands of new parents across the state, through maternity hospitals, child health clinics, the media and maybe even our own green baby showers.

For the full details, head to www.environmentvictoria.org.au/greenbabies, or contact us for hardcopies of the information. If you'd like to help distribute our Green Babies brochure to your local maternity hospital, health centre or parents' group, just let us know by contacting us on (03) 9341 8165.

GREEN LANDLORDS, GREENER RETURNS

With 500,000 renters in Victoria, we've decided to get serious about convincing landlords to go green. After all, investing in a sustainable property is just good business.

In the ACT landlords and agents have to advertise their sustainability star rating when they put properties up for sale. A one star increase has been found to increase value of the property by about three percent. So spending \$1200 on insulation could increase the value of a \$400,000 property to \$412,000. A similar star rating system is coming in across the country – so we knew it was time to get serious about convincing landlords to go green.

To make greening rental properties easier, we've put together a whole lot of information on what to do, and the hows and whys of it. We've popped it all online at www.environmentvictoria.org.au/landlords and we're working hard to distribute hard copies of it far and wide. You can get your copy of this information online or by getting in contact with us on (03) 9341 8165. And if you'd like to help us distribute this information to real estate agents, local councils and more, just give us a hoiy.

And we haven't forgotten about the renters. Off the back of our hugely successful *Green Renters Guide*, we've put together information for renters, at www.environmentvictoria.org.au/renters, and done a 10,000 copy reprint of our *Victorian Green Renters' Guide*. To get your hands on your own copy, or to get a box of copies for your local environment group/neighbourhood house/real estate agent, give us a call or email us at admin@environmentvictoria.org.au.

Our community climate change work wins an 'Oscar of Australian Science'



Environment Victoria CEO, Kelly O'Shanassy; Sustainable Living Project Manager, Michele Burton; Surmeli Aydogan, president of the Alevi Community Council; and NSW Minister for the Climate Change and the Environment, Hon. Frank Sartor.

PHOTO: AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM EUREKA PRIZES AND 247 STUDIOS

> **Louise Matthieson**, Media Officer

Environment Victoria's hands-on work with the community has won us the \$10,000 Eureka Prize for the Advancement of Climate Change Knowledge.

THE PRIZE WAS awarded in Sydney on Tuesday, 17 August, for Environment Victoria's innovative programs working face-to-face with migrants and refugees, young people, seniors and the economically disadvantaged to empower these groups to raise awareness of climate change within their own community, and help others live more sustainably.

The Eureka Prizes are Australia's most prestigious science awards, and are usually only won by senior scientists and large research institutions. Environment Victoria Chief Executive Officer Kelly

O'Shanassy said she was very proud to accept the prize on behalf of all the program participants.

"Environment Victoria has been working hard with the community for years, and it's an absolute honour to have that work recognised with such a prestigious prize," she said.

"But this prize doesn't just recognise our work, it recognises that communities everywhere, and people from all walks of life can be a part of the solution."

Environment Victoria's programs have included working with the Alevi, Turkish and Kurdish speaking community in Melbourne's north, in partnership with the Alevi Community Council. Surmeli Aydogan of the Alevi Community Council attended the black tie dinner in Sydney.

"Working with Environment Victoria has been a great opportunity," said Ms Aydogan. "It has spurred our community to become leaders in saving energy and water."

Speaking about the award-winning

program, Frank Howarth, Director of the Australian Museum — which hosted the awards — said the program was engaging communities where climate change was still seldom discussed or considered.

"By listening to the communities and packaging the science and advice in accessible terms, the programs are already promoting the broader understanding of this issue that is vital for decisive action at an individual, national and global level."

This is the first year the \$10,000 Eureka Prize for the Advancement of Climate Knowledge has been awarded. It recognises work that demonstrates achievements in deepening the broader community's understanding of climate change, its impacts and the need for action. The prize is sponsored by the New South Wales Government. Environment Victoria will be re-investing the prize money to reach even more Victorian communities with our climate change message.

Multicultural leaders sow green seeds

As another round of our innovative Multicultural Leaders in Sustainability (MLS) project comes to an end, Green Action News touches base with three of our recent and inspiring graduates – Acholly Arow, Jacklin Malut and Law Eh. This is the fourth time we've run the project and Environment Victoria is currently looking to secure more funding to run the project again next year. MLS trains young people from multicultural backgrounds in sustainability, project management and leadership. The young leaders then take the message into their communities, to help them reduce their environmental impact.



ACHOLLY AROW (Sudanese, Age 16)

"When I first entered the MLS program, I felt that I was part of a community where I was making a difference to our environmental sustainability. I felt great to be a part of a project because I've never been in one and didn't know what kinds of skills I needed to lead one. But eventually I learned along the way, got taught the basics on how working in a group is a really good way to start, as you develop your team and leadership skills. It was something different and I also learned about the different cultures and the people taking part in MLS. Where they come from and some of the hard things they found living in a new country. I had lots of fun and also recommend others to join in and learn about what it is to be a leader and make a difference to their local environment.

Acholly Arow takes part in the planting day she co-organised as part of her MLS workshop.



Jacklin Malut makes a new friend during her MLS experience.

JACKLIN MALUT (Sudanese, Age 20)

"I have learnt a lot [through MLS]. I have learnt about working in a group with people from different backgrounds. I learnt sharing ideas with people that are not my family. But most importantly I have learnt leadership skills. [Since then], I've been teaching my family and the community of how to take care of the environment. I've timed my family's shower time and helped them to reduce it. As for myself, I have reduced my shower time from 30 minutes to about 6 minutes since starting MLS! I also encourage my mum not to wash in the sink with the tap running. This is how people from my country are used to washing."



Law Eh (far left) journeyed from Burma and Thailand to get to Australia but now calls himself an 'Environment Victorian'.

LAW EH TA THU (Karen)

"The MLS program is a very useful project, and I now know a lot of different kinds of activities and know more [about] how to use less energy, water and waste — and how to put different [kinds of waste] in the rubbish bin too... Also we're planning to do a project and share our knowledge, what we have been doing. Then we went to the camp, and when we're in camp we share and find out more [about] different cultures with friends and I think [this is all] fantastic to me! Yes that's what I'm thinking and wanna share to friends, family, neighbours and our community!"

For more on our Multicultural Leaders in Sustainability project, visit us online at www.environmentvictoria.org.au.



Help TreeProject put trees back on the land

TreeProject's seedlings will end up revegetating key rural areas devastated by the 2009 bushfires.

Environment Victoria Affiliate, TreeProject, has been bringing together the rural and urban communities for years to repair some of Victoria's worst environmental problems.

FOR OVER 20 YEARS, TreeProject has coordinated the activities of hundreds of volunteers in growing seedlings, and planting indigenous trees and grasses. Now, they're looking to expand their network of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer growers to grow native seedlings to use for rural revegetation projects. The seedlings will be used to establish wildlife corridors, lower the water table, help tackle salinity and soil erosion, and provide shelter for stock. TreeProject volunteers receive training, a grower's manual and a growing kit with everything they need to grow healthy seedlings – including native seeds provided by Victorian farmers. "Growing native seedlings is easy, can be done at home, and can involve the whole family," says TreeProject Manager, De Grebner. "There's also an opportunity to participate in planting out the seedlings you've grown. It's a very important and fulfilling experience." After the severe bushfires in February 2009, TreeProject has been committed to

assisting landholders with regeneration projects in the areas affected. They believe that rehabilitation measures are important to minimise on-site erosion and restore vegetation cover. This year, TreeProject was involved in many projects that aimed to assist the reformulation of these areas. Through the assistance of a generous grant from the Garry White Foundation, they reestablished their community nursery, and propagated 6,000 native seedlings. Some of these will be used to mitigate the habitat loss in the fire-affected areas. De, who has been managing the Re-Tree Scheme with TreeProject for over six years, says that the stewardship the program creates for urban volunteers to rural areas is invaluable. "We have landholders and growers who have worked together for years, and have developed lasting relationships through their common goal to improve the land." **To get involved in all the TreeProject action, contact De Grebner on (03) 9650 9477 or visit them online at www.treeproject.asn.au.**

CELEBRATE THE 13TH ANNUAL MULLUM MULLUM FESTIVAL

WHEN: Sun, 10 October; Sat, 16 October & Sun, 17 October 2010. The 13th annual Mullum Mullum Festival celebrates the ecological and cultural values of the Mullum Mullum Creek Valley, which runs from Croydon to the Yarra River near Warrandyte. This year's festival will be opened by sustainable energy expert and Mayor of Whitehorse, Bill Pemberton. Events include activities led by the local indigenous community; guided walks through the valley and talk on the effects of climate change and sustainable living. For full details, contact Les Smith on (05) 9874 2641 or via email at lvsmith@chariot.com.au.

The big wins keep on coming in the lead-up the State Election

We're still over two months out from the State Election, but the big wins are continuing to flow in. Here's a quick snapshot of what your support has helped us achieve in the last three months.

Our inspirational Sustainable Living Program won a prestigious Eureka Prize for our community climate change work.



A gross solar feed-in tariff is being introduced for business.

As part of the Climate Change White Paper, the state government announced a solar feed-in tariff for large-scale solar projects. Five percent of Victoria's electricity will be generated by large-scale solar power by 2020. This will make Victoria the most attractive place to build large scale solar power stations in Australia, and comes off the back of our strong campaign for a solar feed-in tariff.

Water is going back into the Yarra and Thomson Rivers.

We finally saw a reversal of fortunes for our much-loved Yarra and Thomson Rivers. After a long battle and strong media campaign led by Environment Victoria, the state government returned 3 billion litres of water to the Thomson and 7 billion litres to the Yarra.

We secured an independent manager for environmental water.

Until now, environmental water has been managed by Government Ministers. In dry times, water has been removed from rivers and given to other users. Environment Victoria successfully campaigned for the creation of an independent environmental water holder, which has been legislated by the State Parliament.

Replace Hazelwood. One quarter down. Three quarters to go.

Our new ground-breaking campaign to Replace Hazelwood scored a commitment from the Brumby

Government to retire 400 MW of brown coal by 2014. That's one quarter down, three quarters to go. We even managed to get it on the national political stage, with both Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott grilled on the issue in the lead-up to the 2010 Federal Election.

Victoria's energy efficiency target is doubled and extended to businesses.

We campaigned for it, and now we've got it. It'll save an extra 2.7 million tonnes of emissions every year from 2012. That's over 2 percent of the state's emissions.

A legislated state target is set to reduce Victoria's carbon pollution by 20 percent by 2020.

The state government promised a climate bill four years ago. Now they're finally delivering, and it's one of the strongest targets in the country. Of course we'll have to go further, but this target will only be achievable if we replace power stations like Hazelwood. It's a big boost for further action to cut emissions.

The state government commits to improving the standard of Victoria's housing stock to a 5-star equivalent.

It was great news for our One Million Homes campaign as the state government committed to improving the efficiency standard of Victoria's homes to a 5-star equivalent. Now we're working hard to convince them that our One Million Homes program is the best way to make this happen.

Nearly 1000 people letterbox over 250,000 homes as part of our Walk Against Warming.

We put climate change back on the federal election agenda with a Great Suburban Walk as part of the 2010 Walk Against Warming. Nearly 1000 people letterboxed 250,000 homes in Melbourne, Deakin and Latrobe, taking our safe climate message straight to the people who matter the most – the voters.

Our Sustainable Living program won an 'Oscar of Australian Science'.

In a big result for our award-winning Sustainable Living program, we won a \$10,000 Eureka prize, the most prestigious awards in Australian science. See page 11 for the full story!

We received a \$2 million founding donation to our Green Future Fund from the Dara Foundation.

We haven't even launched it yet, but we've already secured a founding gift of \$2 million from the Dara Foundation. The Green Future Fund will help us secure our long term independence, ensuring we'll be around in the coming decades to mobilise people and safeguard our environment.

Thank you to all the generous members and supporters of Environment Victoria. You've made these important wins for our environment possible!

HELP US REPLACE AUSTRALIA'S DIRTIEST POWER STATION. IT'S WINNABLE IF WE ACT NOW!

Thanks to your support, we've put Hazelwood well and truly on the map. The state government has said it's willing to close one quarter. (It's their first offer, but it's a good start.) And the owners of Hazelwood have said

they want a deal to close the whole thing. The issue's even gone federal, with Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott both quizzed on it in the lead-up to the federal election. Help us get the rest of the way there!

YES! I WANT TO HELP YOU REPLACE THE WHOLE SHEBANG!

I would like to donate:

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 My own amount \$ _____ Please find enclosed a:

Cheque or Money Order (payable to Environment Victoria INC.) or please debit my card: Amex Mastercard Visa

Cardholder's name: _____ Expiry date: ____ / ____ Signature: _____

Card number: | _ _ | _ _ | _ _ | _ _ | - | _ _ | _ _ | _ _ | _ _ | - | _ _ | _ _ | _ _ | _ _ | - | _ _ | _ _ | _ _ | _ _ |

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Family Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Tel: (BH) _____ (AH) _____

Please send all future correspondence by email

Help us to help you by telling us a little bit more about yourself. (All information will be kept strictly confidential).

Date of Birth: D _____ / M _____ / Y _____ Occupation: _____

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES YOU CARE MOST ABOUT

All Biodiversity Healthy Rivers Safe Climate Sustainable Lifestyles Smart Stuff (Less Waste)

Please complete this form, tear off this page and return it to Reply Paid 12575, A'Beckett Street, Melbourne, VIC 8006 or visit www.environmentvictoria.org.au/give and make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity!



**You've
cared
about the
environment
all your life.**

**Environment Victoria.
Mobilising 5 million people to
safeguard our environment.**

Protect the things that are important to you with a bequest to Environment Victoria.

By leaving a gift to Environment Victoria in your will, you can make sure that Victoria's natural environment is protected well beyond your lifetime and that your voice is heard on the issues most important to you. Your precious gift will help Environment Victoria protect our natural world on your behalf and take a strong stance on behalf of the environment.

For more information on how you can leave a bequest to Environment Victoria, please contact Kelly O'Shanassy on (03) 9341 8119 or visit us at www.environmentvictoria.org.au

AGM NOTICE

**You're invited to
Environment Victoria's
Annual General Meeting
and the Launch of our
Green Future Fund.**

As one of our most important supporters, we'd like to invite you to join us at the 2010 Annual General Meeting and Launch of our Green Future Fund. Special Guest, Mr John Daley – CEO of the Grattan Institute – will be our guest speaker for the evening. Mr Daley is one of Australia's leading strategists. He'll take us through the future environmental and social challenges our country faces, as well what we need to do to safeguard our future.

WHEN

Wednesday, 29 September
2010 @ 5.30 pm

WHERE

Ground floor meeting
room, 60 Leicester Street,
Carlton

Drinks and light
refreshments are on us.

PLEASE RSVP

to (03) 9341 8100 or
admin@environmentvictoria.org.au
by Monday, 20 September 2010.

WHO'S WHO AT ENVIRONMENT VICTORIA

Chief Executive Officer
Kelly O'Shanassy
Campaigns Director
Mark Wakeham
Sustainable Living Director
Murray Irwin
OPERATIONS
Organisational Services
Manager **Ivan Kolker**
Administration Coordinator
Helen Vine
Communications Manager
Vicki Kyriakakis
Communications Officer
Sarah Dobney
Fundraising Director
Ian Coleman
Senior Fundraiser
Amber Sprunt

Fundraising Officer
Lily Weinberg
Database Administrator
Barry Sumpter
Finance Officer
Despina Giannakis
Media Officer
Louise Mattheson

**WATER &
HEALTHY RIVERS**
Healthy Rivers Campaign
Co-Manager **Juliet Le Feuvre**
Healthy Rivers Campaign
Co-Manager **Amelia Young**

SAFE CLIMATE
Safe Climate and Smart
Transport Campaigner
Victoria McKenzie-McHarg
Safe Climate Campaigner
Josie Lee

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING
PROGRAM**
Project Manager
Michele Burton
Project Manager
Nina Bailey
Program Manager
Charlie Davie
Project Officer
Domenica Settle

BOARD
President **Russell Fisher**
Vice-President **Sue Noy**
Doug Gimesy
David Osborn
Elizabeth McKinnon
Amanda Nuttall
Jeana Vithoulkas
James Meldrum

REGULAR VOLUNTEERS
Andrew Booth
Peter Flanagan
Janet Gellie
Colleen Guggisberg
Ian Hazewinkel
Lance Lessels
Catherine Ryan
Marion Silver
Les Smith

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